



Malachi and Charles can reach for the sky

STUDENTS Malachi Castro and Charles Morton have won scholarships to one of Britain's most prestigious schools.

The boys will study A Levels at the City of London School after earning their places through the school's bursary programme.

The pair are the latest in a string of Forest Gate students to gain places at top fee-paying schools through our Prestigious Colleges scholarship scheme.

They were accepted after submitting a written application, attending an interview at the school and then sitting the entrance exam.

Malachi said: "I wanted a better quality of opportunity – that most people will never be given – and I want to try to seize it with both hands.

"It was never something I considered I would be able to do, but the college will be able to give me opportunities in life I would have never thought possible a few years ago."

The City of London School is more than 500 years old and is normally only open to fee-paying students.

Notable alumni include former Prime Minister H H Asquith and world-renowned scientist Peter Higgs.

The Prestigious Colleges programme has seen students leave FGCS for the best independent schools in the country, including Eton College and Winchester College.

This year, the school is able to send four students to City of London School on bursaries.



Their future's bright: Malachi and Charles look forward to attending City of London

Malachi and Charles hope by attending the school, they will be able to achieve entry to MIT and Oxford universities respectively.

Charles said: "Teachers at Forest Gate really helped me throughout the application process at the City of London School and they also

made me believe this was something I could actually achieve.

"Getting an offer from the college has motivated me even more than I was already. It has made me want to do everything I can to ensure I do my best."

Schools' common vision creates ideal partnership

FOREST Gate Community School has partnered with fee-paying City of London School to extend our Prestigious Colleges scholarship programme.

Mr Emerson, Head of Sixth Form at City of London, suggested the collaboration after being impressed with the quality of candidates we have submitted.

Year 11 pupils Malachi Castro and Charles Morton will study A levels at the

central London school in September after being offered places.

The school offers up to 20 bursary scholarships per year to students who otherwise could not afford the fees.

Places at the school are based purely on performance at the academic entrance examinations.

Associate Headteacher Ms Whelan said: "We are very pleased to be working

in partnership with such a prestigious school.

"It is a tribute to our educational standards and commitment to academic rigour that we have been asked to further contribute to this scholarship scheme.

"Our two schools share a common vision based on collaboration, teamwork and supporting peers which makes ours an ideal partnership."

Read about our Year 10 Prestigious Colleges cohort's tour of City of London on page 3

Monitoring technology praised for its impact

Judges impressed by new DPR portal

THE school narrowly missed out on a prestigious TES award for the second year in a row.

Our unique Dynamic Progress Reporting portal was selected for the Innovative Use of Technology to Influence Outcomes award.

DPR was one of eight programmes piloted at schools to be shortlisted for the prize by a panel of education experts.



Staff attended the glitzy award dinner hosted by comedian Al Murray and held at the Grosvenor House hotel on London's Park Lane in June.

It comes after the school missed out on the award for

Secondary School of the Year in 2017.

The DPR was previously nominated in two categories at the excellence in school IT BETT award.

It was also praised by Barbara Firth of the National Association for Able Children in Education, who said it enhanced parental involvement.

Associate Headteacher Ms Whelan (pictured above at the awards) said: "We did not win the TES award but ours is a daily victory when our students log on to DPR.

"It is extremely pleasing that DPR has been recognised for its capacity to improve educational outcomes for our students."

The TES judges said of DPR: "It is a comprehensive example of how technology can be used to positively impact many aspects of school life."



Innovative: The new DPR portal has been developed by Mr Zaman (centre)

DPR, which is led by the deputy CEO of the Community Schools Trust, Mr Zaman, has been three years in development.

Of the programme, Mr Zaman said: "For the first time, students know exactly what to learn. Parents know exactly how to help their child throughout their learning journey."

Nominees for the TES awards were invited to afternoon tea at the Houses of Parliament in recognition of their achievements.



Caring footballers work hard to help hospice

ASPIRING footballers at the school have raised more than £500 in aid of a local children's hospice.

Year 7 pupils held a series of sponsored events around school to raise cash to enter a football tournament in support of Richard House Children's Hospice.

Year 7 Zakaria Saker said: "There are people our age who are suffering with these kinds of problems and I think it is our duty to help them.

"They have their difficulties and Richard

House helps them to lead a more normal life and if we can support that work, we are making a difference."

Based in Newham, Richard House provides services including residential care and other therapies for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

As part of their fundraising efforts, children from the school were also invited to the hospice to learn more about the cause they were supporting.

The tournament itself will take place at the West Ham United Foundation training ground in Beckton later this year.

Team member Preston Emelike added: "I think this is a really good cause to support. If I was in that situation, I would be worried but I don't want children to feel like that.

"We visited the hospice and they told us if it was not for people raising money, they would close down, so I thought it was really important to help."

Setting the standard across the country

I AM delighted to see students engage in such a wide range of activities at FGCS. It is clear this school offers not only world class results and opportunities to allow students to have happy, successful careers but helps them become rounded people with a breadth of experiences and skills.

This school continues to set the standard in education and pastoral

Executive Headteacher **Simon Elliott** reflects on the excellent extra curricular programme at FGCS

support, not just in Newham but the entire country. I would like to thank the hard work of the students and staff this year and thank parents for their support of the school.



High achievers given a taste of college life

BRIGHT Forest Gate students are aiming high after spending the day at a top fee-paying school.

Our Prestigious Colleges trip saw high-achieving Year 10 pupils visit the City of London School on the Victoria Embankment in June.

Students learned about life at the school, listened to lectures and took part in a question-and-answer session before touring the nearby Square Mile.

Pupil Suheb Elmi said: "We got to take a look around and ask students at the college what life was like there.

"It has opened a different avenue for me, it is an opportunity I never thought would be available to me but if I could work hard and seize it, I would be set up for life."

Our Prestigious Colleges scholarship programme has helped pupils win places in the sixth form of the country's top fee-paying schools, including Eton College.

Raees Arif said: "Our targets and expectations have been raised beyond all my previous expectations with this visit.



Opportunity: Students learned about life at City of London School during the trip

"I will definitely be looking at applying for a scholarship. It has really inspired and motivated me to work towards getting the grades I need to get into an institution like this and to dream about what universities or careers I could get into afterwards."



OUR students have been analysing the causes of coastal retreat on a geography field trip to Walton on Naze, Essex, in May.

Boys' delight at claiming futsal crown

OUR Year 9 pupils' futsal team beat tough competition to be crowned borough champions.

The team tasted victory at the first time of asking when they entered the Newham tournament in May.

Our team were able to advance from the group stage of the tournament despite losing their first game.

They went on to defeat Eastlea Community School 3-1 in the semi-finals, before beating Kingswood Community School 3-0 in the final.

Prince Commodore, who was part of the winning team, also plays in Leyton Orient's youth set-up.

He said: "It was a really nice feeling to win. We played Eastlea not too long ago at football and they beat us so it was good to get a win against them to get to the final.

"I like futsal, it was my first time playing and it is a really fun game."

Egzon Topojani, who was also part of the winning team, added: "Our teacher entered us into the futsal competition to see what we could do and even he admitted he did not think we would win the whole thing on our first try.

"I really enjoy futsal, it is for all types of people. You do not have to be fast or strong, it helps with your football and helps you become more technical."

People's Choice accolade for students' furniture designs

OUR budding architects' designs of street furniture will grace Stratford Waterfront after winning the People's Choice award for an East London schools design competition.

The Year 8 team were tasked with building a 3D model which met the design criteria of being interactive, practical and multifunctional.

After being shortlisted, they then had to present their idea to a panel of judges from architect firm Allies and Morrison at a live final held at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in June.

On top of the prestige of winning the competition, our pupils also took home a £1,500 prize to be spent on design technology at the school.

Workshop students in human rights debate

STUDENTS learned about the consequence of the UK leaving the EU at a workshop on human rights.

The session sought to replicate parliamentary debate on replacing the Human Rights Act with a Bill of Rights post-Brexit.

Year 10 students were taught about the law and then took on the role of MPs to debate whether the UK should have its own human rights legislation.

Head of Citizenship Ms Tsierkezou said: "The session was very educational and enjoyable. It was great to see students really immerse themselves in their parliamentary roles and the debate.

"It was also great seeing pupils being informed and actively learning about Parliament."

The workshop was led by Shout Out UK, who have partnered with the Britain in Europe think-tank, based in Brunel University London.

The project, which took place in June, aims to increase debate among young people on the Human Rights Act.



Interest: Students at the human rights workshop

Students are rightly proud



Associate headteacher **Charlotte Whelan** reflects on another year of achievement at the school

AS we reach the end of another wonderful year at Forest Gate Community School, it is a good time to reflect on all we have achieved.

Our Year 11 students have successfully completed their exams and during this term in particular we have seen them emerging ready for the next stage of their education with the attributes that we nurture at FGCS: they are ambitious, hardworking, resilient, polite and high-achieving individuals who are connected to the world around them with high aspirations for themselves and their community.

In this newsletter you will see how school life contributes to the academic and pastoral development of our students and how these attributes are developed and encouraged from Year 7.

I am very proud to have led the school this year and I know the students are very proud of their school.



A healthy way to win

CATERERS Olive Dining encouraged pupils to stay healthy this term by giving away World Cup-themed prizes.

Students who bought water instead of fizzy drinks at break and lunchtime were handed football goodies in June and July.

Pupils were entered into a raffle if they chose one of the

delicious main meal options for lunch. Head of Food Technology Mr Shapland said: "All the top footballers know you need to stay hydrated and drink water all the time to remain fit.

"Olive Dining encouraged our students to follow this example by giving away prizes to all the students who chose to buy water during the World Cup."

NEWS IN BRIEF...

OUR Year 10 media students learned about careers in the industry during a visit to the Secret Cinema experience.

Pupils also got the chance to design their own immersive cinema experiences during the visit in May.

Head of Media Mr Bispham said: "The experience of seeing this breathtaking interactive experience combined with career advice from industry professionals really inspired our students."

STUDENT Shajibur Rahman and Aamina Chuniya have been chosen as head students following a vote in June.

The four deputy head students are Shajahan Chowdhury, Firdaus Omar, Waheeda Tabassum and Annieka Archibald.

STUDENTS were tasked with coming up with technological solutions to social problems during a workshop at Imperial College, sponsored by tech giants Dell.

STUDENTS left the stage to rapturous applause after wowing an audience of friends and family at our Summer Concert.

Performance included thrilling renditions of the theme tune to Game of Thrones, Jungle Book favourite Bear Necessities and Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata.

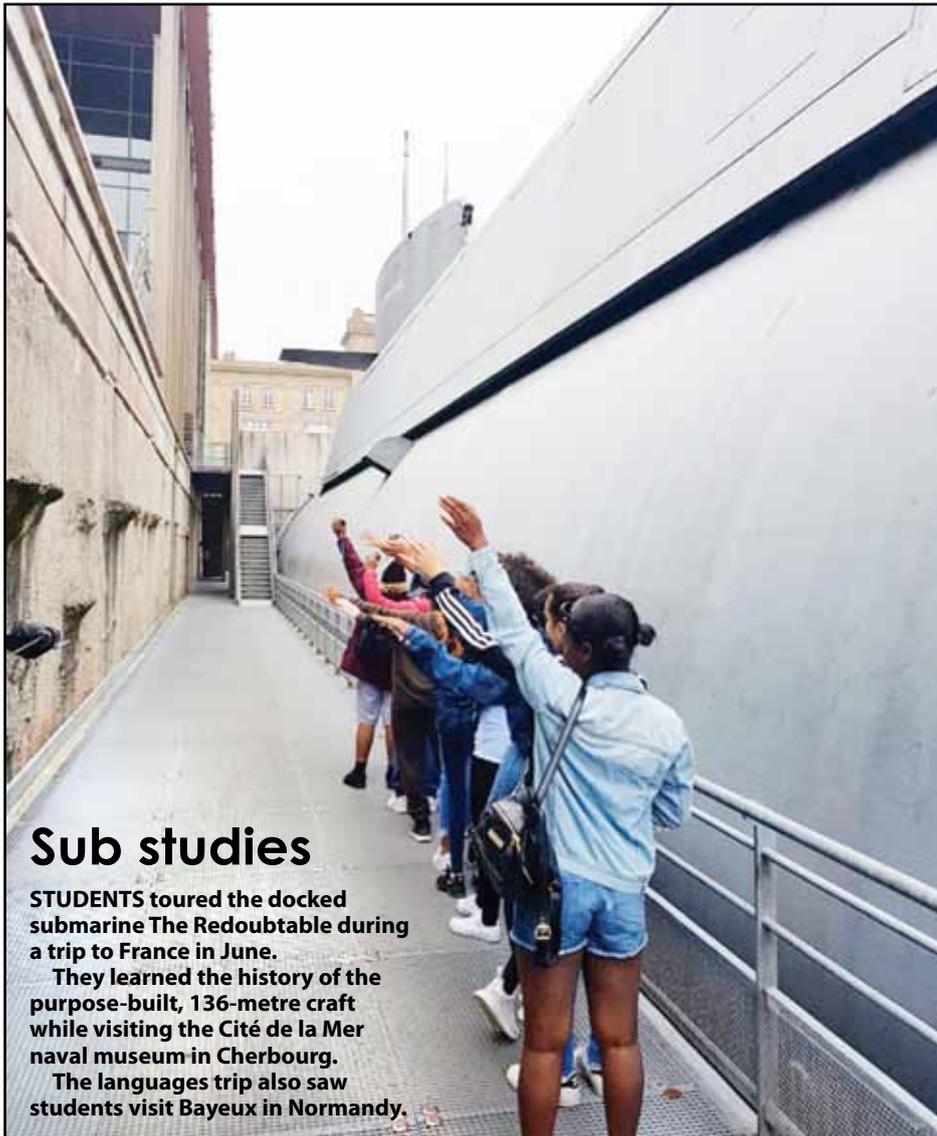
There were solo vocalists, piano concertos and a performance by creative vocal group Mash up at the uplifting evening of music held at the school in July.

Head of Music Lorna Rhomes said: "Over the years our music department has provided entertainment for our families.

"This concert was an exceptionally powerful, inspiring and fulfilling occasion featuring a wide range of musical styles.

"The performance was of the highest quality, the musicianship very impressive and the overall performance thrilling and uplifting."

Summer Concert truly memorable



Sub studies

STUDENTS toured the docked submarine *The Redoubtable* during a trip to France in June.

They learned the history of the purpose-built, 136-metre craft while visiting the Cité de la Mer naval museum in Cherbourg.

The languages trip also saw students visit Bayeux in Normandy.

Esme's so quick off the mark

YEAR 8 Esme Jones (right) was the fastest runner from Newham in the U13s category at the London Mini Marathon held in April.

Henry Houghton finished a very respectable 84th overall out of 176 runners in the U15 age group.



Road safety tips

YEAR 7 students learned about the importance of road safety by watching an educational play.

Theatre company The Riot Act, part of Theatre in Education, performed *Deadly Distraction* at the school.

The play addressed road safety themes such as use of mobile phones, music distractions and peer pressure.

Head of Citizenship Ms Tsierkezou said: "The Year 7s were thoroughly attentive and engaged throughout."

Creative science

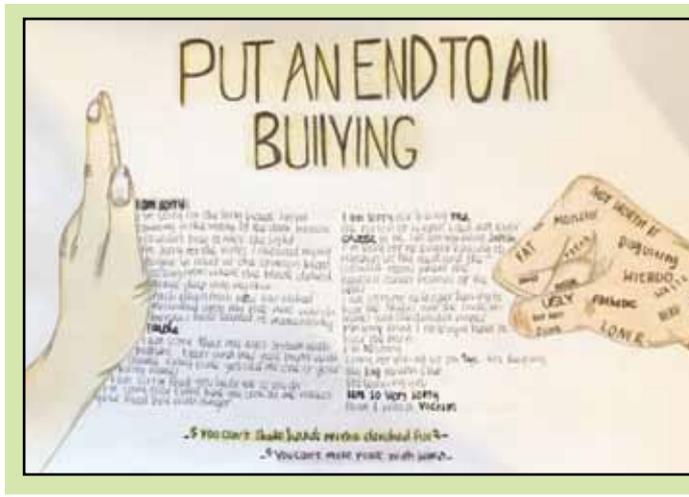
OUR Year 7 Science Club have been researching scientific concepts through creative arts projects.

This included creating volcanoes, sparklers, bath bombs and making plastic from milk.



Fiesta fun!

A CHILLI-EATING challenge, soak-the-teacher stall (left) and a big-prize raffle helped to raise £480 at our Summer Fiesta in June.



Festival posters promote diversity

POSTERS designed by students celebrating tolerance and diversity were displayed at the Forest Gayte Festival in June.

Student Voice

Hamza takes a look at world of Facebook

RYMARCZUK describes Facebook as “another world” or heterotopia. An idealistic world where we are ourselves communicating with others but identity can be inaccurate and sometimes fictional, even if we may not realise it.

Whether identity is made up of opinions and views about ourselves or by what other people think about us, most online identities are different to real life. Rymarczuk describes the heterotopia of Facebook as “perfect, as meticulous, as well-arranged” whilst our real world is “messy, ill-constructed and jumbled.”

Facebook is seen as a revolution allowing us to connect with millions of people within seconds – yet it also contributes to the confusion and bombardment of unnecessary information, sliding us closer to a dystopia of often misleading, useless and irrelevant information, slowing down the speed at

Year 8 **Hamza Akbar's** critique of psychologist Robin Rymarczuk's article The Heterotopia of Facebook has been entered for the Safer Internet Day Academic Project competition. Read an abridged version here...



which we work; having the opposite effect of the intentional design.

While Facebook gives you access to the world, it also gives the world access to you. Through cookies, Facebook can also monitor your interactions, your interests, personal information, your typing speed and even who your potential future partners could be. However, private shareholders often have direct access to your information. So, while this heterotopia can be viewed as idealistic

and sub-realistic, under the surface it is more dangerous than our own realities.

The convenience of having a consistent identity on Facebook alters the actual identity of a person. While profile pictures can be changed to denote personality and mood changes, the interaction of liking and commenting on posts is an unrealistic one. For example, you may like a certain post because it has been posted by a friend/special person, which in turn can influence your opinions on products and subjects. In real life, you may not like something purely because your friend does. It is concluded then; Facebook can manipulate your opinions, ideas, views and feelings. It changes your identity.

This, in retrospect, is not what Facebook is designed to be. However, the development of information age means that this is always going to be the case.

Taste of Spanish culture was remarkable

DURING the trip, we visited three different cities: Granada, Cordoba and Nerja, all three of which were unique and exciting in their own way.

I didn't really know what to expect, seeing as I had never visited Spain before. That being said, it was really intriguing to see the differences of Spanish culture being compared with that of British culture. The journey itself was rather tiring; however, it was well worth the wait as we got to see many interesting sights during our journey. Some of these

Year 9 **Shajahan Chowdhury** gives a first-hand account of the school trip to Granada, Cordoba and Nerja, Spain, in June.

included the Alhambra, Calahorra Tower and the Mosque Cathedral.

The Mosque Cathedral was really unusual to see. As the name suggests, it was once a mosque and is now a cathedral. It was extremely bizarre to appreciate two of the world's leading religions fused together in one amazing

piece of architecture. It was truly a sight to behold.

On the other hand, my favourite visit was the Science Museum. This was an exceptionally curious place to visit as there was a wide variety of animal species free around the room, such as lemurs and toucans, much unlike places we have here. Overall, I had a wonderful time in Spain and I would like to return again. It was a truly remarkable experience.

■ Read a report of the trip on page 8.

Why not join in the community conversation?

FAMILIES are being asked to join our Friends of Forest Gate Community School Facebook page to share their thoughts and views of life at our school.

In a few short weeks, the group already has 120 members and often shares exclusive content from the school.

Group admin Julie Burman said: "Our Facebook page started with a few posts but not many parents interacting. Now it has



really gathered momentum and parents are now commenting and beginning to post.

"I'd really like to encourage more parents to feel confident in posting about their own children's achievements. It could

be about their involvement in and around school or perhaps extracurricular activities and opportunities which other children may find interesting.

"Please also encourage other family and friends to join the page – the more the merrier."

To become part of the community, search Friends of Forest Gate Community School on Facebook and click to join.



Big leap: Princess Boachie was the winner in the Year 9 long jump event

Athletics golds for famous five

OUR superstar athletes raced to gold against some of the best young athletes in the borough this term.

Five pupils took first place in events at the Newham Athletics Championships at Lee Valley Athletics Centre in May.

The star of the show was Year 10 Henry Houghton, who celebrated a double victory after securing wins in both the 800 metres and the long jump.

Other pupils who were among the winners included Year 9 Princess Boachie in the long jump, Ayesha Dabo in the discus, Shadrack Boakye for the Year 9 800 metres and Cassandra Robinson in the shot put.

Winner Princess said: "I get butterflies when I am just about to compete but then I just relax

and get on with it. I really enjoy winning, it feels amazing.

"Every time I get on the track I know I am going to win and athletics gives me confidence for everything I do in school and in life.

"I am going to work hard to do something in sport later in my career because that is where I feel my talents lie."

Shadrack, who won gold at the 800m, said: "I am getting better at athletics and I have had help from older students at the school to improve myself."

"It just feels good to have something through school that you are good at, are able to take part in and show off your talents."

The school also claimed 12 silver medals and eight bronze medals during the meet.

Grant winners' selfless act to treat peers



HIGH-FLYING Forest Gate youngsters used grant award money to treat their peers to fun day trips.

Prince-Manuel Commodore and Izach Giusef Castro used £250 from Jack Petchey awards to fund a trip to Thorpe Park and the Museum of London Docklands.

Prince (left) was nominated by teachers for his outstanding achievements in sport, while Izach was given the nod for his academic attainment.

Izach (right) said: "I was so surprised I had won. I did not expect any recognition, I just wanted to work hard, but it was really nice to win an award all the same."

Prince said: "It was a really good feeling, it is good that the teachers noticed my efforts in sports."

The Jack Petchey Foundation works with more than 2,000 schools and youth organisations in London and Essex to recognise the achievements of young people.

Those awarded under the scheme are nominated by their peers or teachers and each receive a £250 grant.



Programme opens up a Pathway to success

BRIGHT pupils on our Pathway X programme have made such rapid progress they may sit GCSE exams early – and then maybe take an A Level.

Pathway X programme pupils are given intensive lessons in English, mathematics and science to fast-track their learning.

Year 7 Hassan Siddique is among pupils on the scheme aiming to take exams two years early in Year 9.

He said: “It has just been inspiring to be given this opportunity. It is giving us something that is difficult to learn, but not so difficult we cannot understand it.

“The school is trying to bridge the barrier between Year 7 learning and GCSE classes and this helps so much.”

Those who pass exams early will use free time in their schedule when they reach Year 10 to take other GCSEs or even sit A Levels.

Year 8 Hamza Akbar said: “The scheme has fundamentally rearranged the curriculum for us. We can cover a topic in five or six weeks that may normally take a whole term.

“In a normal school, work progresses at the average speed of the class, but that doesn’t really help anyone. We are getting the best educational opportunities the teachers can give us.”



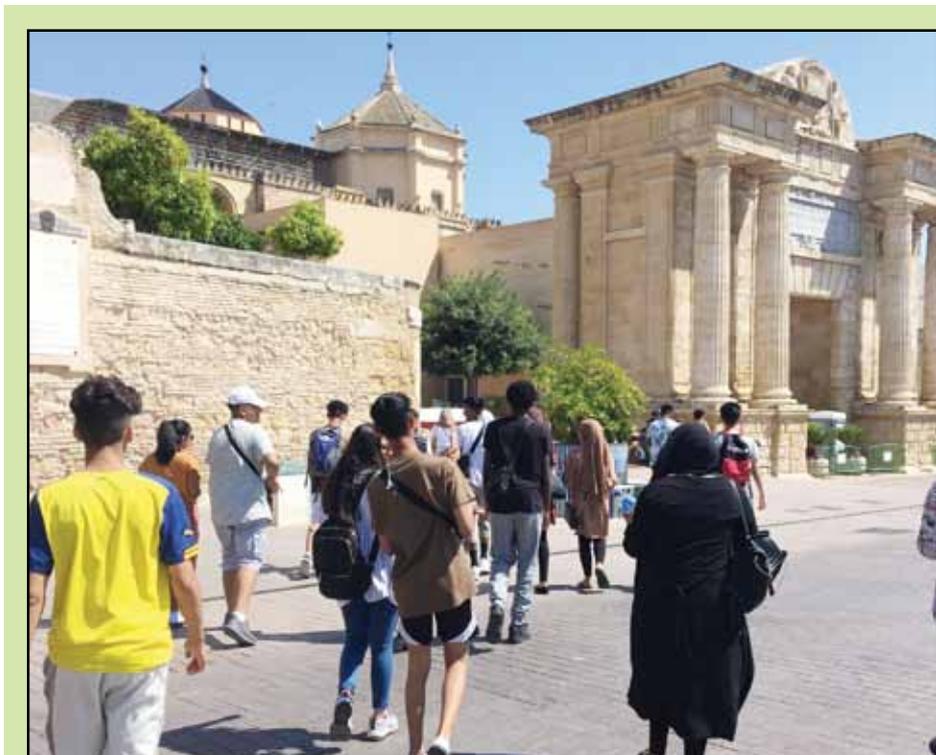
Now Haniah has a clearer picture

Why I love Pathway X by Haniah Salad

“WE have been given a great opportunity through Pathway X. It means extra work but what we are doing is fun.

“It has made me understand my path through school and through my exams much better, and I think it’s a really good thing I might be able to take some of my GCSEs early.

“The lessons are extremely engaging; the teachers are encouraging us to challenge ourselves.”



Students test language skills

FOREIGN languages students tested their new-found skills on a school trip to Spain.

FGCS’s modern languages department ran a trip to southern Spain in June, with dozens of students jumping at the opportunity to take part.

The school visited the towns of Granada, Cordoba and Nerja where they were given the chance to learn more about the region.

Year 9 Wasima Islam said: “It was just a really incredible experience to learn about

how different life is in the UK to Spain. We got to learn so much about the culture and the history of the country, I thought it was really interesting.”

Year 9 Shajahan Chowdhury said: “The trip was the first time I had been to Spain and I enjoyed going there so much, it was such an amazing country.

“My favourite part was when we got to go to the beach and we saw a jellyfish, it was so much fun.”



STUDENTS performed a stunning version of William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream at our summer play in July.



OUR Year 8 girls’ rugby team impressed with their running and tackling when recording a victory over Lister Community School in May.